

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 11-13 as set forth below in the "Listing of Claims".

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for manufacturing a glass rod, which is a ~~base parent~~ material of an optical fiber, comprising:

a furnace which heats a base material, which is a parent material of said glass rod;

~~a standard rod having a predetermined straightness;~~

a hanging mechanism ~~which supplies~~ positioned above said furnace, for supplying said base material of said glass rod to said furnace along an axis of ~~said a~~ standard rod, said standard rod being supplied separately from said base material of said glass rod to adjust a vertical inclination of a drawing axis; and

an elongating mechanism ~~which pulls~~ positioned below said furnace, for pulling said base material of said glass rod heated by said furnace along said axis of said standard rod to produce said glass rod, wherein:

at least one of said hanging mechanism and said elongating mechanism ~~holds~~ are movable when these mechanisms hold said standard rod ~~to adjust a~~ so that the vertical inclination of said ~~axis of said standard rod~~ hanging mechanism and said elongating mechanism is adjusted.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein said hanging mechanism and said elongating mechanism are movable when these mechanisms hold said standard rod is made of ceramic so that a horizontal position of said hanging mechanism and said elongating mechanism is adjusted.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein said standard rod has a length of said base material of said glass rod and dummy rods that are welded onto both ends of said base material.